Media Release

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BAKER IDI SCIENTIST WINS TOP AWARD

Professor Mark Cooper from Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute was today awarded a prestigious $4 million Australia Fellowship from the Australian Government through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The grant, one of 12 allocated this year, is for Professor Cooper’s outstanding research into why people develop complications of diabetes, as well as understanding the mechanisms responsible for these complications. Professor Cooper is a multi-award winning scientist and clinician and his fellowship represents the first time this grant has been awarded to the field of diabetes.

Diabetes is at epidemic proportions in our community, with one in four adults at risk of the disease and one in 10 destined to develop the disease.

“I feel very honoured to receive this fellowship and look forward to continuing my research into the various reasons people suffer from a multitude of complications from diabetes,” Professor Cooper said.

“The research aims of my group are designed to develop findings and eventually treatments that can be used in clinical practice and reduce the burden of diabetes on the community.”

Fellowship winners use their Australia Fellowship funding and experience to produce research that has the potential to have a major impact on the health problems facing Australia, while also mentoring talented junior researchers, providing them with opportunities to develop their careers without having to go overseas.

The Australia Fellowships are presented annually and have a term of five years.

Professor Cooper’s research feeds directly into the development of new treatments to target and prevent the development of diabetes-related disease.

For interviews please contact Ebru Yaman, General Manager Media and Communications, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute: 03) 8532 1234 or 0488 380 484